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MINISTER PRENTICE ANNOUNCES REAPPOINTMENT OF GWICH'IN LAND AND WATER BOARD MEMBER

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OTTAWA (April 2, 2007) – The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced the reappointment of Mr. Paul Sullivan to the Gwich'in Land and Water Board *(external link, opens a new window)* . This appointment is effective immediately.

"The residents of the Gwich'in Settlement Area continue to benefit from this board's important work as it strives to optimize the utilization of land and water resources while balancing conversation and development in the area," said Minister Prentice. "I am pleased that Mr. Sullivan has accepted to serve another term."

Mr. Sullivan, of Gwich'in ancestry, was born and raised in Aklavik, Northwest Territories (NWT) and is an engineer working for Canadian Helicopters in Inuvik, NWT.

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board is a regulatory authority. It was established in 1998 under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and given effect by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* to provide for an integrated and coordinated system of land management in the Mackenzie Valley of the Northwest Territories.

The Act authorizes the Board to regulate the use of land and water by issuing, amending, renewing and suspending land use permits and water licences throughout the Gwich'in settlement area, which includes all Crown, Gwich'in and any other private lands.

The Board consists of five members, including the Chair. Two members are nominated by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, one member is nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories and another by the Government of Canada. The four members nominate the Chair and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development then appoints all nominees to the Board for a term of three years.

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